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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,038	01/16/2004	In Cheol Jeong	0630-1938P	6144

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EXAMINER	
REESE, DAVID C	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3677	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/01/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/758,038	JEONG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David C. Reese	3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 February 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-8,11,13-15,17,19-25,27 and 28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1, 3-8, 11, 13-15, 17, 19-25, and 27-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.1 14, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/12/2008 has been entered. Consequently, the following is the current listing of claims in the instant application:

Status of Claims

- Claims 2, 9-10, 12, 16, 18, 26 were canceled.
- Claims 1, 5, 8, 13, 17, and 22 were amended.
- Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13-15, 17, 19-25, and 27-28 are pending.
- Replacement Drawings were filed for entry.

Drawings

[1] The drawing(s) were previously objected for informalities. In view of Applicant's replacement drawing(s)/annotated drawing(s) submitted on 2/12/2008, all previous objection(s) to the drawings have been withdrawn.

Claim Objections

[2] Claim(s) 1 and 5 were previously objected to because of informalities. Applicant has successfully addressed these issues in the amendment filed on 2/12/2008. Accordingly, the objection(s) to the claim(s) 1 and 5 have been withdrawn.

However, as amended:

Claim 8 recites the limitation "the nut installed portion" in the instant claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

[3] The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

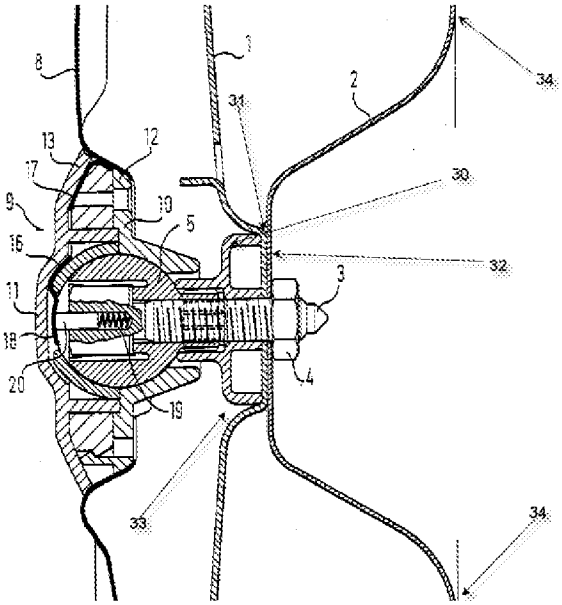
[4] Claims 1 and 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heyder, US-5,483,759, in view of Triplett, US-3,483,632.

Although the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth 35 U.S.C. 102, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a designer having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains, the invention is not patentable.

As for Claim 1, Heyder discloses a hinge apparatus of a clothes drier drum comprising a front hinge portion (column 1, lines 66, 67), and a rear hinge portion (see figure 2 and figure below) installed between the rear of the case (1) and a rear of the drum (8) such that the rear of the drum swings in vertical and horizontal directions.

Heyder further shows the rear hinge portion to comprise a housing (10, 11) fixed at the center of the drum, a ball bearing (5) in the housing, and a shaft (3). The shaft (3) extends entirely through the ball bearing (see figure 2); and

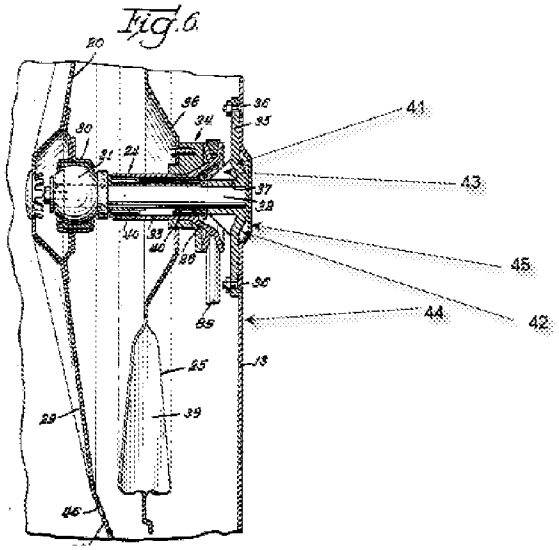
wherein the case (1) has a convex portion (31) with a recess (33) for receiving a nut (30) and a reinforcing member (2) has a flat board shape (34) and a convex portion (32) for receiving the convex portion (31) of the case (1) for reinforcing stiffness of the case (1) when the case (1) is engaged therewith. The reinforcing member (2) is mounted at the outer surface of the case (1).



The difference between the claim and Heyder is that Heyder does note expressly disclose of the reinforcing member; in addition to having a flat board shape and a convex portion, possessing a recess [for receiving the convex portion of the case]. Triplett discloses a hinge apparatus of a clothes drier drum similar to that of Heyder including that of a front hinge portion, a rear hinge portion (see figure 6 and figure below) installed between the rear of the case (35) and a rear of the drum (20) such that the rear of the drum swings in vertical and horizontal directions.

Triplett further shows the rear hinge portion to comprise a housing (30) fixed at the center of the drum, a ball bearing (31) in the housing, and a shaft (32). The shaft (32) extends entirely through the ball bearing; and

wherein the case (35) has a convex portion (41) with a recess (43) for receiving a nut (33) and a reinforcing member (13) has a flat board shape (44) and a convex portion (42) with a recess (45) for receiving the convex portion (41) of the case (35) for reinforcing stiffness of the case (35) when the case (35) is engaged therewith. The reinforcing member (13) is mounted at the outer surface of the case (35).



As shown and articulated above, Triplett further teaches of the reinforcing member (13); in addition to having a flat board shape (44) and a convex portion (45), possessing a recess (42) [for receiving the convex portion (41) of the case (35)]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the disclosures of Heyder and Triplett before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the case and reinforcing member of Heyder to possess the various respective convex and recess structures, as in Triplett. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because such a configuration of having a reinforcing member adjacent the

case via a convex/recess allows for better stability and security of the hinge apparatus, as taught by Triplett. Further, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art have modified the case/reinforcing members as a person with ordinary skill has good reason to pursue the known options within his or her technical grasp. In turn, because the convex/recess structure of the case and reinforcing member as claimed has the properties predicted by the prior art, it would have been obvious to make such a modification in order to gain the commonly understood benefits and applications of such an adaptation and/or modification including that of better securement and stability of the case in conjunction with the shaft of a drum.

Re: Claim 3, Heyder shows the housing includes first and second housings (11 and 10, respectively) fixed at the rear of the case (1). A spherical groove (around 5) is formed when the first and second housing are assembled.

Re: Claim 4, Heyder discloses the first housing (11) includes a first engaging portion (upper and lower portions of 11, near 13, in figure 2) with a bolt hole (shown in figure 2 between 12 and 13) fixed at the rear surface of the drum (8) and a bolt engaging hole bolt engaged with the second housing (at 12). The holes are formed in a circumferential direction. The first hinge portion (11) is integrally formed at the center of the first engaging portion and has a hemispherical groove where the ball (5) is inserted.

Re: Claim 5, Heyder discloses the second housing (10) comprises a second engaging portion (at 12) having a plurality of bolt holes which is bolt-engaged to the first engaging portion. A second hinge portion has a second hemispherical groove (receiving 5) in which the ball bearing is inserted and a penetrating hole through which the shaft passes.

Re: Claims 6 and 7, Heyder discloses one end of the shaft (3) fixed at the ball bearing (see figure 2), and the other end of the shaft has a spiral formed portion (threads) so as to be bolt engaged with the case (1) while providing an empty gap between the second housing and the case. A base nut (portion around shaft 3, between 4 and 5, in figure 2) is screw engaged with the shaft at an inner surface of the case (1).

[5] Claims 8, 10, 13-15, 17, 19-25, 27, and 28, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heyder in view of Wesson, US-763,821.

With respect to claim 8, Heyder discloses a hinge apparatus of a clothes drier drum having a case, comprising a front hinge portion (column 1, lines 66, 67), and a rear hinge portion (see figure 2) installed between the rear of the case (1) and a rear of the drum (8) such that the rear of the drum swings in vertical and horizontal directions. Heyder further shows the rear hinge portion to comprise a housing (10, 11) fixed at the center of the drum, a ball bearing (5) in the housing, and a shaft (3). Heyder also discloses one end of the shaft (3) fixed at the ball bearing (see figure 3), and the other end of the shaft has a spiral formed portion (threads) so as to be bolt engaged with the case (1) while providing an empty gap between the second housing and the case. A base nut (30) is screw engaged with the shaft at an inner surface of the case (1). The base nut (30) is flat (against the recess of the case, as well as having other flat characteristics) and disc shaped and installed at a nut-installed portion at a convex portion (31) of the case (1) with a recess (33) for receiving the base nut (30); and

a reinforcing member (2).

Heyder does not show a plurality of protrusions around the outer circumference of the base nut to engage a stopping pin through an insertion groove formed at the convex portion and

wherein the stopping pin is integrally formed in the reinforcing member and is not detachable from the reinforcing member, is inserted in an insertion groove formed at the case, and is protruded to the nut installed portion, so that the stopping pin stops a stopping protrusion.

Wesson teaches a nut lock comprising a base nut (14) threadably engaged on a shaft (10). The base nut has a plurality of engaging protrusions (sides of 15) spaced from one another with a certain interval there between around the outer circumference for engagement with a stopping pin (16) through an insertion groove (17) to restrict rotation of the base nut member to a limited extent. This arrangement prevents the nut from rotating backwards on the bolt and loosening the connection. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Heyder to include the nut lock arrangement of Wesson to prevent the nut from rotating backwards and loosening the connection. As modified, the pin 16 of Wesson would be fitted into the shaft 3 of Heyder, the insertion groove and pin passing through the reinforcing member 2 and case 1 and engage the nut (14) of Wesson. The nut (14) of Wesson replaces the base nut shown by Heyder. Thus, the stopping pin (16) is inserted in an insertion groove (13) formed in the case and is protruded to the nut-installed portion (area between 4 and 5) such that the stopping pin stops a stopping protrusion (sides of 15). In Wesson, it is shown that a stopping pin formed at one member (10) may pass through the groove (13) of another, intermediate member (12) to engage a protrusion (on sides of 15) of a nut (14). As applied to Heyder, the pin 16 would be formed in the shaft 3, pass through the reinforcing member (2) and a groove in the case (1) to engage protrusions of base nut. It is noted that because the pin is present at a location where the reinforcing member is, it is considered to be formed at the reinforcing member.

The stopping pin would be considered integrally* formed in the reinforcing member and inserted in an insertion groove formed at the case, protruding to the nut, so that the stopping pin stops a stopping protrusion.

*The term integral is not necessarily restricted to a one-piece article. *In re Kohno (CCPA) 157 U.S.P.Q. 275*. It may be construed as relatively broad. *In re Dike (CCPA) 157 U.S.P.Q. 581*. Although two elements may not structurally integral, so long as they are rigidly secured, they are "integral" in a functional sense. *In re Clark (CCPA) 102 USPQ 241*.

Re: Claim 13, Heyder discloses a hinge apparatus comprising a housing (10, 11), a ball bearing (5), a shaft (3), and a shaft fixing unit (2 and portion around shaft 3, between 4 and 5, in figure 3). The shaft fixing unit comprises a base nut member (portion around shaft 3, between 4 and 5, in figure 3) screw engaged with the shaft installed an inner surface of the case (1) and a reinforcing member (2) mounted at an outer surface of the case (1). Heyder does not show a plurality of protrusions around the outer circumference of the base nut to engage a stopping pin integrally formed in the reinforcing member and not being detachable from the reinforcing member through an insertion groove formed at a convex portion of the case.

Wesson teaches a nut lock comprising a base nut (14) threadably engaged on a shaft (10). The base nut has a plurality of engaging protrusions (sides of 15) spaced from one another with a certain interval therebetween around the outer circumference for engagement with a stopping pin (16) to restrict rotation of the base nut member to a limited extent. This arrangement prevents the nut from rotating backwards on the bolt and loosening the connection. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Heyder to include the nut lock arrangement of Wesson to prevent the nut from rotating backwards and

loosening the connection. As modified, the pin 16 of Wesson would be fitted into the shaft 3 of Heyder, the insertion groove passing through the reinforcing member 2; being integrally* formed in the reinforcing member and not being detachable from the reinforcing member, and case 1 and engage the nut (14) of Wesson. The nut (14) of Wesson replaces the base nut shown by Heyder.

*The term integral is not necessarily restricted to a one-piece article. *In re Kohno (CCPA) 157 U.S.P.Q. 275*. It may be construed as relatively broad. *In re Dike (CCPA) 157 U.S.P.Q. 581*. Although two elements may not structurally integral, so long as they are rigidly secured, they are "integral" in a functional sense. *In re Clark (CCPA) 102 USPQ 241*.

Re: Claims 14 and 15, the combination of Heyder and Wesson shows the base nut member to have a disc shape and is installed at a nut-installed portion formed at a center of the case. The stopping pin (16, of Wesson) is inserted in an insertion groove formed in the case and is protruded to the nut-installed portion (area between 4 and 5) such that the stopping pin stops an engaging protrusion (sides of 15). In Wesson, it is shown that a stopping pin formed at one member (10) may pass through the groove (13) of another, intermediate member (12) to engage a protrusion (on sides of 15) of a nut (14). As applied to Heyder, the pin 16 would be formed in the shaft 3, pass through the reinforcing member (2) and a groove in the case (1) to engage protrusions of base nut.

Re: Claim 17, Heyder discloses a housing (10, 11), a ball bearing (5), a shaft (3), and a shaft fixing unit (2 and portion around shaft 3, between 4 and 5, in figure 3). The shaft fixing unit comprises a base nut member (portion around shaft 3, between 4 and 5, in figure 3) screw engaged with the shaft installed an inner surface of a case (1), wherein a reinforcing member (2) is mounted at an outer surface of the case (1).

Heyder does not show a plurality of protrusions around the outer circumference of the base nut to engage a stopping pin integrally formed at the reinforcing member and is not detachable from the reinforcing member through an insertion groove formed at a convex portion of the case.

Wesson teaches a nut lock comprising a base nut (14) threadably engaged on a shaft (10). The base nut has a plurality of engaging protrusions (sides of 15) spaced from one another with a certain interval therebetween around the outer circumference for engagement with a stopping pin (16) to restrict rotation of the base nut member to a limited extent. This arrangement prevents the nut from rotating backwards on the bolt and loosening the connection. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Heyder to include the nut lock arrangement of Wesson to prevent the nut from rotating backwards and loosening the connection. As modified, the pin 16 of Wesson would be fitted into the shaft 3 of Heyder, the insertion groove passing through the reinforcing member 2 and case 1 and engage the nut (14) of Wesson. The nut (14) of Wesson replaces the base nut shown by Heyder.

The stopping pin would be considered integrally* formed in the reinforcing member and inserted in an insertion groove formed at the case, protruding to the nut, so that the stopping pin stops a stopping protrusion.

*The term integral is not necessarily restricted to a one-piece article. *In re Kohno (CCPA) 157 U.S.P.Q. 275*. It may be construed as relatively broad. *In re Dike (CCPA) 157 U.S.P.Q. 581*. Although two elements may not structurally integral, so long as they are rigidly secured, they are "integral" in a functional sense. *In re Clark (CCPA) 102 USPQ 241*.

Re: Claim 18, Heyder discloses a reinforcing member (2) at the outer surface of the case (1). The combination of Wesson and Heyder shows a stopping pin (16 of Wesson) formed at the reinforcing member (2 of Heyder). As combined, the pin 16 would be formed in the shaft 3, pass through the reinforcing member (2) and a groove in the case (1) to engage protrusions of base nut. It is noted that because the pin is present at a location where the reinforcing member is, it is considered to be formed at the reinforcing member.

Re: Claims 19 and 20, the combination of Heyder and Wesson shows the base nut member to have a disc shape and is installed at a nut-installed portion formed at a center of the case. The stopping pin (16 of Wesson) is inserted in an insertion groove (13) formed in the case and is protruded to the nut-installed portion (area between 4 and 5) such that the stopping pin stops an engaging protrusion (sides of 15). In Wesson, it is shown that a stopping pin formed at one member (10) may pass through the groove (13) of another, intermediate member (12) to engage a protrusion (on sides of 15) of a nut (14). As applied to Heyder, the pin 16 would be formed in the shaft 3, pass through the reinforcing member (2) and a groove in the case (1) to engage protrusions of base nut.

Re: Claim 22, Heyder discloses a method of assembling a hinge comprising the steps of providing a first housing (11), second housing (10) and a shaft (3). Heyder further discloses fixing the first housing (11) to a rear center position of the drum (8) and inserting a ball bearing (5) into a first hinge portion of the first housing (portion of 11 receiving the ball 5) and coupling the second housing (10) to the first housing (11). Heyder further discloses coupling a shaft fixing member (2, and portion around shaft 3, between 4 and 5) to a spiral formed (threaded) section of the shaft and inserting the shaft into a case (1) to fix the shaft into the case. A nut (4)

is coupled to an end of the shaft (3). Heyder does not show a stopping pin integrally* formed in the reinforcing member and not being detachable from the reinforcing member, to stop the shaft fixing member.

Wesson teaches a nut lock comprising a shaft fixing (14) threadably engaged on a shaft (10). The shaft fixing unit has a plurality of engaging protrusions (sides of 15) spaced from one another with a certain interval therebetween around the outer circumference for engagement with a stopping pin (16) to restrict rotation of the base nut member to a limited extent. This arrangement prevents the shaft fixing unit from rotating backwards on the bolt and loosening the connection. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Heyder to include the nut lock arrangement of Wesson to prevent the shaft fixing from rotating backwards and loosening the connection. As modified, the pin 16 of Wesson would be fitted into the shaft 3 of Heyder, pass through the reinforcing member 2 and case 1 and engage the nut (14) of Wesson. The nut (14) of Wesson replaces the base nut shown by Heyder. The stopping pin (16) is at the reinforcing member, and in an insertion groove at the case and engages the protrusions (sides of 15 in Wesson). Rotation of the shaft is prevented by the shaft fixing member.

The stopping pin would be considered integrally* formed in the reinforcing member and inserted in an insertion groove formed at the case, protruding to the nut, so that the stopping pin stops a stopping protrusion.

*The term integral is not necessarily restricted to a one-piece article. *In re Kohno (CCPA) 157 U.S.P.Q. 275.* It may be construed as relatively broad. *In re Dike (CCPA) 157*

U.S.P.Q. 581. Although two elements may not structurally integral, so long as they are rigidly secured, they are "integral" in a functional sense. *In re Clark (CCPA) 102 USPQ 241*.

Re: Claims 23 and 24, Heyder discloses that the steps of providing the first and second housings include a semi-sphere groove being formed in the first and second hinge portions, respectively (portion of 11 and 10 containing the ball 5).

Re: Claim 25, Heyder discloses a reinforcing member (2) coupled to an end portion of the shaft (3) from the outer side of the case.

Re: claims 27 and 28, the combination of Heyder and Wesson shows the stopping pin (16 of Wesson) is curvedly extending from an outer circumferential surface of the reinforcing member. Wesson shows a curved stopping pin. The shaft fixing member is contacted with an inner surface of the case (1) and the reinforcing member (2) is contacted with an outer surface of the case (see figure 2).

[6] Re: Claims 11 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heyder in view of Wesson as applied to claims 8 and 18 above, and further in view of Crowley (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,432). In Heyder, it appears that the reinforcing member is fixed to the case by nut (4), not a weld or rivet as claimed.

Crowley teaches a fastening arrangement where a threaded rod and nut or a rivet may be used (column 4, lines 25-26), thus establishing equivalence between the two fasteners. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a rivet to secure the reinforcing member to the case of Heyder, as a rivet is an equivalent fastening means.

Response to Arguments

[7] Applicant's amendment and remarks, see amendment and remarks filed 2/12/2008, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 and 3-7 under Hyder, solely, have been fully considered. Therefore, the rejection with regard to Hyder; solely, has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration of the amended claims, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Heyder, US-5,483,759, in view of Triplett, US-3,483,632. Consequently, all arguments with respect to the instant claims are considered moot to said new grounds of rejection.

[8] Applicant's arguments and amendments filed 2/12/2008 regarding rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the instant case, the applicant argues that since it is claimed that the stopping pin is integrally formed in the reinforcing member and is not detachable from the reinforcing member, the combination as articulated above is no longer proper. The examiner disagrees. As stated above, the term integral is not necessarily restricted to a one-piece article. *In re Kohno (CCPA) 157 U.S.P.Q. 275*. It may be construed as relatively broad. *In re Dike (CCPA) 157 U.S.P.Q. 581*. Although two elements may not structurally integral, so long as they are rigidly secured, they are "integral" in a functional sense. *In re Clark (CCPA) 102 USPQ 241*. Thus, having the stopping pin passing through the reinforcing member, can in the broadest reasonable interpretation, be construed as the pin being integral to the reinforcing member. And further, with respect to the negative limitation of the pin not being detachable from the reinforcing member; the examiner would like to point out that when in use, as articulated above by the modification of Hyder in view of Triplett and in further view of Wesson, the pin can be considered as being not detachable in a certain configuration. Applicant is reminded that claims in a pending application should be

given their broadest reasonable interpretation. *In re Pearson, 181 USPQ 641 (CCPA 1974)*, and that things clearly shown in reference patent drawings qualify as prior art features, even though unexplained by the specification. *In re Mraz, 173 USPQ 25 (CCPA 1972)*.

Conclusion

[9] THIS ACTION IS NON-FINAL

[10] The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited further to show the state of the art with respect to this particular type of hinge assembly: please see submitted notice of reference cited.

[11] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David C. Reese whose telephone number is (571) 272-7082. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am-6:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached at (571) 272-6987. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is the following: (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David Reese

/D. C. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 3677

/Victor Batson/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3677